

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An intermediate support element for a front fender (5) of a motor vehicle, ~~this-the~~ support element being able to be mounted on an upper beam (3) of ~~the-a~~ chassis of the motor vehicle and comprising ~~vehicle, the support element comprising:~~  
~~a body (6)body; and~~  
~~at least one breakable protuberance (7A, 7B) projecting upward and to which~~  
~~said front fender (5) is intended to be fixed, said protuberance and said body being molded in~~  
~~a single part, said protuberance (7A, 7B) comprising comprising:~~  
~~at least one front wall (28) connected by a frangible zone (26) to said~~  
~~body (6),body,~~  
~~a rear wall (27) connected by the frangible zone (26) to said body~~  
~~(6)body, and~~  
~~a third wall connected by the fangible zone to said body, wherein:~~  
~~the third wall(29, 30) which the frangible zone (26) connects to said body (6)~~  
~~and which rigidly connects the front wall (28) and the rear wall (27) to each other, and~~  
~~the frangible zone is a thinned zone having a thickness that is less than said~~  
~~body and said front wall, said rear wall and said third wall of the protruberance.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that ~~wherein~~ opposite the third wall (29, 30), the breakable protuberance (7A, 7B) has a fourth wall (29, 30) ~~whichwall,~~ the frangible zone (26) connects ~~said fourth wall~~ to said body (6) and ~~which~~ ~~the fourth wall~~ rigidly connects the front wall (28) and the rear wall (27) to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 2,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the frangible zone (26) surrounds the breakable protuberance  
(7A, 7B).protuberance.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the third wall (30) of the protuberance (7A, 7B) is drilled with a  
hole (18) for the passage of means (19) for fixing a fixing device that fixes the fender (5) to  
the protuberance (7A, 7B).protuberance.

6. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ said body (6) has an upper wall (9) ~~which~~that is provided with  
the protuberance (7A, 7B).protuberance, and at least one upper oblique release ramp (25) on  
the ~~a~~ side of an edge (5a) of the front fender (5) fitted to the upper wall (9) and, at its ~~a~~ lowest  
point, reaching a side edge of ~~this~~ the upper wall (9).wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that it wherein~~ the support element is molded in a thermosetting polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the thermosetting polymer is filled with fibers and non-filiform  
particles.

9. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 8,  
~~characterized in that it wherein~~ the support element contains between 25 and 40% by weight  
of thermosetting polymer, between 18 and 25% by weight of glass fibers and between 40 and  
50% by weight of non-filiform particles.

10. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the thermosetting polymer is electrically conductive.

11. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed claim 1, characterized in that it has means (20, 23) for positioning further comprising positioning structure that positions at least one front piece of equipment of the motor vehicle, such as a lighting assembly, a front facade or a hood.vehicle.

12. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, characterized in thatwherein, in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance (7A, 7B) is inside a first enveloping circle (U1) which has its-a center (H) in the a middle of a front portion of the frangible zone (26),zone, in front of the protuberance (7A, 7B),protuberance, and passes through the middle (I2) of a rear portion of the frangible zone (26),zone, behind the protuberance (7A, 7B),protuberance, and in that in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance (7A, 7B) is inside a second enveloping circle (U2) which has its-a center (I2) in the-a middle of the rear portion of the frangible zone (26),zone, and passes through the middle (H) of the front portion of the frangible zone (26).zone.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for molding anthe intermediate support element (4) as claimed in claim 4,claim 1, in which a mold (50) is used which comprises at least one fixed part (52) and one movable part (51) and which delimits a molding chamber (53) and at least one discharge passage (54) communicating with thisthe molding chamber, the latter comprising at least one portion (55) which corresponds to said thinned zone (26) of the intermediate support element (4) and which is located between the fixed part (52) and the movable part (51) of the mold (50),mold, thisthe method comprising steps in which:

- a) the molding chamber (53) is provided with more molding paste (56) than is necessary for molding the intermediate support element (4),element, and then
- b) the movable part (51) of the mold (50) is moved toward the fixed part (52) of the mold (50) so as to cause the molding paste (56) to flow between thesethe fixed and

movable parts and to discharge a surplus of molding paste (56) through the discharge passage (54),passage, until the mold (50) delimits, apart from shrinkage, the final form of the intermediate support element (4).element.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, characterized in thatwherein in step b), the movable part (51) of the mold (50) is moved in a direction (D) substantially perpendicular to said thinned zone (26) of the intermediate support element (4) during molding.